

## TEST TAKING ADVICE

1. Review homework problems. The test will consist of problems that are similar to these
2. Be sure you have read the required reading and understood it. Make a checklist of my questions you may still have and/or ideas that we still troublesome. Try to answer your questions and practice the troublesome parts. When you feel confident that you understand, check off that topic as your list. This method helps you to concentrate your studies where they are needed.
3. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!
4. Don't stay up late the night before the exam! When you start to feel tired and you cannot think clearly (you'll know when this is), stop and go to bed. The rest that your mind gets will be a far greater advantage to you than anything you could have learned after that point. (Maybe the things you were going to man will nor even he on the test.) There is nothing more frustrating than knowing how to do a problem and missing half (or all) of the points because you didn't read the problem clearly or you made a mathematical error!
5. Stay relaxed and calm during the text. Take a deep breath and remember that rarely is your grade destroyed by your performance on one test. You have a lot of chances to get points in the course.
6. Read over the test and put marks beside the problems you think you can do. Do these problems first, take your time, and get them correct. If you know that you can get these points, then pocket them right away - don't wait. If you run out of time on the harder problems, then a least you haven't wasted time that you could have used to get the easy points. (Maybe you wouldn't have got die harder problems anyway - even if you had a week to do them.)
7. If you get stuck on a problem and can't seem to get unstuck after a few minutes, then move an to another problem. Sometimes you will remember something after going on to another problem
8. If them is time left at the end of the test, be sure to check it over thoroughly before turning it in (even if you feel very sure that you have every problem correct). You may find a small algebra error that you can easily correct. These, saved points can make a letter grade difference by the end of the course. However, never change an answer unless you are 100% sure it is wrong. Trust your first answer if you are in doubt.
9. Turn in your test when the time is up, and leave with a good feeling knowing that you did the best that you could. Don't let the test ruin your day. Celebrate what you have learned!

Do you want more help with other study skills? Go to this website for tips on listening, memorization, note taking, test taking tips, and time management strategies.

<http://www.sas.calpoly.edu/asc/ssl.html>

### 14 Ways to Ace a Test

1. Make sure you know exactly what the test will cover. If you are not sure, ASK.
2. Arrive early so you have time to do a breathing or relaxation exercise.
3. Pay particular attention to verbal directions given as the test is distributed.
4. Scan the whole test immediately. Evaluate the importance of each section. Notice how many points each part of the test is worth and estimate how much time you will need for each section. Budget your time for each section according to the value of the points.
5. Jot down memory aids, formulas, equations, facts, or other material you know you will need and might forget.
6. Answer the easiest, shortest questions first. This gives you success that stimulates you to go on.
7. Next, answer the multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions and finally the essay questions.
8. Pace yourself. Watch the time.
9. Leave plenty of space between answers.
10. Look for answers in other test questions.
11. In quick answer questions, your first instinct is usually best. Do not change your answer unless you are sure the second choice is correct.
12. Try to have a positive attitude, and feel good about taking the test.
13. Do not be afraid to ask questions.
14. Remember, old tests make great study guides!